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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Shingo SUZUKI

Group Art Unit: 2674

Application No.: 09/642,642

Examiner: K. Nguyen

Filed: August 22, 2000

Docket No.: 107100

For: SPREAD ILLUMINATING APPARATUS WITH TRANSPARENT SUBSTRATE
HAVING GROOVE PORTIONS OBLIQUELY ARRANGED AND INTERSECTING
ONE ANOTHER

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Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the December 30, 2003 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 2 and 9-14 are pending.

Applicant gratefully appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by the Examiner during the personal interview. The points discussed are incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 2 and 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,764,315 to Yokota et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed at the interview, Yokota et al. does not disclose "a bar-like light source which is provided at and parallel with a side surface of said transparent substrate, and whereby light traveling in a direction substantially parallel to the major surface of the transparent substrate is reflected at said plurality of straight groove portions in a direction

substantially perpendicular to the major surface of the transparent substrate so as to travel towards the liquid crystal panel, as recited in claim 2. Thus, Examiner Nguyen withdrew the above rejections during the interview. Accordingly, Applicant confirms that the rejection of claims 2 and 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2 and 9-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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JAO:HNM/cfr

Date: March 30, 2004

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